Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-28 (cancelled);

Claim 29 (currently amended);

A method of diagnosing a vehicle having an onboard computer for generating a diagnostic trouble code signal, the diagnostic trouble code signal being related to a passed or problem status of the vehicle, the method comprising:

(a)   connecting a handheld code reader to the onboard computer;

(b)   downloading diagnostic trouble code signals from the onboard computer to the code reader;

(c)   ~~disconnecting the code reader from the onboard computer;~~

(d)   generating a visual output signal in the handheld code reader, the visual output signal being representative of <u>passed/failed/inconclusive status</u> ~~the status~~ of the vehicle as determined from the diagnostic trouble code signals by the code reader, independent of resources external to the handheld code reader.

Claim 30 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 29 further comprising the steps of <u>disconnecting the code reader from the on-board computer and</u> uploading the diagnostic trouble code signals from the code reader to a computer configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

Claim 31 (previously added);

The method as recited in Claim 30 further comprising the steps of downloading the problem description data from the computer.

Claim 32 (previously added);

The method as recited in Claim 31 wherein the step of uploading the trouble code signals comprises uploading from the code reader to a personal computer, and uploading from the personal computer to a remote computer, the remote computer being configured to correlate the diagnostic trouble code signals to problem description data for diagnosing the vehicle.

Claim 33 (previously added);

The method as recited in Claim 31 wherein the steps of downloading the problem description data comprises downloading from a remote computer to a personal computer, problem description data correlating the diagnostic trouble code signals to a problem status of the vehicle.

Claim 34 (previously added);

The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the step of generating a visual output signal in the code reader comprises selectively illuminating one of a plurality of visual indicia, each visual indicia being representative of a different status of the vehicle.

Claim 35 (currently amended);

The method as recited in Claim 34 wherein the steps of connecting, downloading and selectively illuminating the visual indicia is illuminated proceed independent of user interaction with the a code reader visual interface.

Claim 36 (currently amended);

The method as recited in Claim 35 29 wherein the step of steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceeds independent of any vehicle specific identification by a user.

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Claim 37 (currently amended);

The method as recited in Claim ~~36~~ 31 wherein the ~~step of~~ steps of connecting, downloading and generating a visual output signal in the code reader proceeds independent of any user selection of code reader controls.

Claim 38 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 29 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status of the vehicle is determined from a plurality of diagnostic trouble code signals.

Claim 39 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 38 wherein the passed/failed/inconclusive status represents a summary/vehicle status.

Claim 40 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 31 further comprising the step of downloading part/service provider information for effecting repairs associated with the problem description data.

Claim 41 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 40 wherein the part/service provider information is generated based on subscription participation of part/service providers.

Claim 42 (new);

The method as recited in Claim 37 wherein the step of generating a visual output signal proceeds independent of user interaction with a code reader visual interface.

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